

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An environmental control apparatus for controlling a working environment in an exposure apparatus for effecting exposure using exposure light having a wavelength range in which oxygen absorbs said exposure light, comprising an ozone removing filter for removing ozone in the air supplied to said exposure apparatus.
  2. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an air conditioning system having an air circulation passage for supplying air having a controlled temperature to said exposure apparatus, wherein said ozone removing filter is disposed in said air circulation passage of the air conditioning system.
  3. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising ozone concentration detection sensors which are respectively disposed upstream and downstream of said ozone removing filter in a flowing direction of the air supplied to said exposure apparatus, and a device for detecting a degree of clogging of said ozone removing filter on the basis of outputs from said ozone concentration detection sensors.
  4. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said exposure apparatus comprises a light source for emitting said exposure light; a reticle having a predetermined pattern formed thereon; an illumination optical system for transmitting said exposure light to said reticle, to thereby form an image of said

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predetermined pattern on said reticle; a projection optical system for transferring said image to a wafer; a wafer stage for receiving said wafer; and a wafer stage chamber including said wafer stage, and wherein said air circulation passage of the air conditioning system runs through an area in said wafer stage chamber between said projection optical system and said wafer stage.

5. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said ozone removing filter is disposed downstream of said wafer stage chamber in the flowing direction of the air supplied to said exposure apparatus.

6. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a filter for removing fine particles which is disposed upstream of said ozone removing filter in the air flowing direction.

7. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a chemical filter for removing impurities which is disposed upstream of said ozone removing filter in the air flowing direction.

8. The environmental control apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said chemical filter is disposed between said ozone removing filter and said filter.

9. An exposure apparatus comprising:

a light source for emitting exposure light having a wavelength range in which oxygen absorbs said exposure light;

a wafer stage for receiving a wafer to be exposed to said exposure light; and

an air conditioning system for supplying air between said light source and said wafer stage, said air conditioning system including an ozone removing filter for removing ozone in the air.

10. An exposure apparatus comprising:

a wafer stage for receiving a wafer;

a light source for emitting exposure light having a wavelength range in which oxygen absorbs said exposure light;

a reticle having a predetermined pattern formed thereon;

an illumination optical system for transmitting said exposure light to said reticle, to thereby form an image of said predetermined pattern on said reticle;

a projection optical system for transferring said image to said wafer;

a wafer stage chamber including said wafer stage; and

an air conditioning system for supplying air to said wafer stage chamber, said air conditioning system including an ozone removing filter for removing ozone in the air.

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